

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Magnetic media for use in a magnetic tape drive (30) an identification window segment (identification window segment 3108) having an electromagnetic transmissiveness which varies along at least a portion of its in a manner chosen to provide a predetermined media or cartridge signature when the media is transported at a selected linear velocity. Preferably, the identification window segment is situated between essentially opaque sections of the media, such as magnetic recording/reproducing segment (3106) and a cleaning segment (3104). Upon insertion into a magnetic tape drive, the magnetic tape is transported past a detector assembly (100) which directs a beam of electromagnetic radiation through the tape. Transport of the identification window segment past the detector assembly thus results in generation of a signal having a waveform with an amplitude which varies in accordance with the varying electromagnetic transmissiveness of the window. The signal is received at a processor, which uses the signal to determine the type of the tape/cartridge and optionally to operate the tape drive in accordance with the thusly discerned type.